



CITY OF ROCHESTER.

REPORTS

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

AS TO

Urban and Port Sanitary Districts,

FOR THE YEAR

1898.

ROCHESTER :

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CITY OF ROCHESTER.



REPORT AS TO URBAN DISTRICT.

OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER,

February 21st, 1899.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the following as my Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Urban District for the year 1898.

Population at Census 1891	..	..	..	..	26,309
Estimated at Midsummer 1898	..	..	..	..	30,533
Area of Urban District	..	..	..	..	2,906 Acres.

I regret to have to inform your Committee that the General Death-rate shows an increase of 3 per 1,000 over that of last year.

The actual number of Deaths in the district was..	..	638
To which must be added those occurring in Medway Union Infirmary belonging to your District ..	..	22
		<hr/> 660
Persons dying, not belonging to District, in Public Institutions, &c. ..	..	151
		<hr/> 151
The corrected number of Deaths was therefore ..	..	509
		<hr/> 509

POPULATION.

Our estimate of the population of the Urban District at the middle of 1898, based on the assumption that it has continued to increase since the 1891 Census at the same rate as during the preceding decennium, amounts to 30,533. If the ordinary increase of births over deaths for the past seven years be added to 1891 Census, the population would be 29,998.

The Death Rate for 1898 was therefore 16·6 per thousand.

The Birth Rate was 26·2 per thousand.

The Zymotic Death Rate was 2·7 per thousand.

TABLE OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS.

Year.	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths Zymotic Diseases.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.
1892	813	426	54	30·1	15·8	1·7	137
1893	804	426	55	29·3	15·5	1·9	130
1894	787	442	53	28·0	15·7	1·6	143
1895	792	428	38	27·6	14·9	1·3	156
1896	818	463	78	27·9	15·8	2·6	136
1897	794	405	84	26·5	13·5	2·7	147
1898	800	509	69	26·2	16·6	2·2	182

The following were registered as causes of death of children under five years of age: Measles 4, Scarlatina 3, Diphtheria 6, Croup 2, Whooping Cough 6, Enteric Fever 1, Diarrhoea 35, Erysipelas 1, Influenza 3, Phthisis 8, Bronchitis 34, Heart Disease 5, Injuries 1, Scrofula 1, Diseases of Nervous System 9, Convulsions 12, Atrophy 29, Diseases of Digestive Organs 22, Premature Births 10, other Diseases not tabulated 11. Total, 203.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The death rate from Phthisis during the past year was 1·1 per thousand; that for other Lung Diseases being 2·2 per thousand. Twelve deaths were attributed to Influenza.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Table showing number of Deaths for the past seven years:—

Year	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Croup	Whooping Cough	Typhoid	Diarrhoea	Total	Death Rate per 1,000
1892	0	13	1	7	4	15	7	7	54	1·7
1893	0	8	3	8	1	2	5	28	55	1·9
1894	0	2	9	16	3	16	1	6	53	1·6
1895	0	2	1	15	1	3	1	15	38	1·6
1896	0	24	9	17	5	2	7	14	78	2·6
1897	0	0	2	26	0	15	7	34	84	2·7
1898	0	5	3	11	2	6	5	37	69	2·2

One death was registered as due to Varicella (Chicken-pox), a very rare cause.

The foregoing Table shows a slight decrease in Zymotic Diseases in the Urban District.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

The following notifications were received during the year :—

Parish	Small Pox	Scarla- tina	Diph- theria	M. Croup	Enteric & continued Fever	Erysi- pelas	Puerperal Fever	Total
Strood and Frindsbury	0	30	20	2	7	17	1	77
St. Margaret's	0	56	57	0	10	22	0	145
St. Nicholas	0	8	3	0	3	2	0	16
Chatham Intra	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	14
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	0	101	87	2	20	41	1	252

MEASLES.

Five deaths were registered during the year. The disease was fairly prevalent, although apparently of mild type.

SCARLATINA.

There were 101 cases notified, against 167 in 1897. One patient was removed from St. Bartholomew's Hospital to St. William's. This child had been in hospital for about four weeks suffering from fits, consequently Scarlatinal infection must have been conveyed to him by visitors to the wards. Ten cases were notified from Borstal during the year. That several others occurred I have little doubt, as the disease was apparently of mild type, and consequently no medical aid sought for. It is these "mild" cases that cause much anxiety to Sanitary Officials. Seventy-eight per cent. of the cases notified were removed to St. William's; this is satisfactory, as shewing promptitude, on the part of Medical Men in notifying, and of ourselves in dealing with, disease of this character.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

There was a considerable decrease, alike in the numbers reported and in the deaths registered, from this disease, during 1898, as compared with several past years; the cases notified being 89 against 131, and the deaths 11 against 26 in 1897.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Only one case was notified, but two deaths were registered.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

It is satisfactory to be able to record a marked decrease in the number of notifications (16 against 29 in 1897). From these 16 the following should be deducted as not having been contracted in your Urban District :—

Five cases from St. Bartholomew's Hospital belonging to Chatham.

One from Borstal contracted at Upchurch.

One from Strood, contracted at Queenborough (probably due to eating raw mussels gathered from the piles near the pier).

One from Strood, contracted at Kidby.

Bacteriological investigations have lately gone far towards affording proof to satisfy the most sceptical mind. It has been proved that the typhoid germ is capable of living and growing, and spreading—apparently without alteration in quality—in soils polluted with organic matter, while failing altogether to retain its vitality in virgin, unpolluted soils.

In delivering an address upon this subject, on October 21st, 1897, in Birmingham, Sir Richard Thorne, Principal Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, spoke as follows:

“It will be clear that organic and decaying refuse should be so dealt with as to prevent its contaminating the soil in the neighbourhood either of dwellings or of sources of water supply. I need hardly point out here in detail what are the points to aim at in securing this end; but I may perhaps usefully approach the matter from the other point of view, and say that the midden-privy, which still prevails in so many of our large midland and northern towns, presents every feature that should studiously be avoided. Generally sunk below the surface of the ground, often open to rainfall, always storing up decomposing excreta and refuse in close proximity to dwellings, it provides almost every condition favourable to the production of nuisance, to the saturation of soil with filth, and to the setting up and maintenance of those very conditions which seem to be essential to the vitality and multiplication of the typhoid bacillus. The fact that with our present knowledge such a structure as the common midden-privy should not only still exist in our midst, but be clung to with a perverted tenacity, is in my opinion the greatest blot which attaches to English sanitary administration at the close of the nineteenth century. Apart from its sanitary aspect, it is a system as degrading and ignoble as it is foul, and I trust the day is not far distant when we shall look back to it as a barbarism of the past.”

SIMPLE CONTINUED FEVER.

Four cases were notified, and all recovered.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease, which appears to be most severe and fatal in temperate climates, causes an average mortality in this country but little less than that of measles. Six deaths occurred in the Urban District during 1898, all of which were those of infants under five years of age.

DIARRHOEA AND DYSENTERY.

Thirty-seven deaths were recorded in 1898; of these no less than 30 occurred in August and September.

The remarks previously made respecting the ultimate causation of enteric fever may be said with slight variations concerning that of diarrhoea. The latter (according to the late Dr. Ballard) is due to an organism which lives and propagates in superficial layers of soil contaminated with organic matter, and thence finds its way into milk and other organic foods, in which it gives rise to an intense chemical poison productive of diarrhoea in susceptible consumers of such food. Given a damp, porous subsoil, polluted with organic matter, the one essential factor to the production of epidemic diarrhoea is a sustained high temperature of air and soil.

As might be expected from this, it is the hand-fed children of the poorer class who constitute the vast majority of victims from summer diarrhoea. The prompt and complete removal of all organic refuse, the paving of yards and other open spaces around dwelling houses, and the sealing of the areas upon which the houses stand, against the access of contamination from the soil, by laying a bed of concrete or other like material over such areas, together with the boiling of milk and other foods before use, are the precautions we should adopt as a matter of course in the light of such knowledge of the cause of diarrhoea.

The infant mortality for 1898 in the Urban District was, 182 deaths per thousand births, a much larger percentage than has occurred during the past seven years.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The whole of the Workshops and Factories in the Urban District have been inspected and a few sanitary defects discovered and remedied. No need has arisen to send notice under Section 3, Sub-section 3, to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL.

The members of your Committee acting on the Joint Hospital Board have, doubtless, borne in mind some suggestions previously made as to additional accommodation required.

Attention is again called to the fact. On the point of economy alone it would be better to secure land as soon as practicable, as dwellings are being erected nearer and nearer to the Hospital, and the value of land is therefore increasing.

The admissions from your Urban District during 1898 were as follows—

Scarlatina.	under 5	27	Deaths	1
	5 and over	52	„	1
		<hr/> 79		<hr/> 2
Diphtheria.	under 5	11	„	2
	5 and over	48	„	7
		<hr/> 59		<hr/> 9
Enteric Fever.	under 5	0	„	0
	5 and over	7	„	2
		<hr/> 7		<hr/> 2

One case of Measles was admitted under very exceptional circumstances. Total number, 146.

All cases of true diphtheria admitted to or developing in the Scarlatina Wards are treated as promptly as possible with anti-diphtheritic serum, and our results are such as fully bear out the favourable verdict so generally pronounced upon this treatment when adopted early in the disease.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The Chief Constable, acting as Inspector under the above Acts, reports:—That as directed he had submitted three samples of butter and three samples of coffee to the City Analyst. All the butters and one coffee were found to be good and unadulterated, but the other two coffees were found to contain 50 per cent. and 75 per cent. of chicory respectively. As the latter samples were sold as mixtures at a low price, your Committee did not order prosecutions, but warned the vendors.

Three carcasses of mutton were found in a slaughter-house. It was denied that they were intended to be sold or used for the food of man. Nevertheless, I deemed it advisable, as they were dressed in the ordinary way, to seize them, and to obtain the assistance of a magistrate, who ordered the said carcasses to be destroyed, which was accordingly carried out by some of the Corporation Officials.

WATER SUPPLY.

In my Annual Report for 1897 this matter was pretty fully dealt with. During 1898 the following wells were found to be in constant use, notwithstanding there was no record in the "Wells Book" of their existence:

1. Watts' Baths.—Used for drinking as well as for bathing purposes. Company's Water since laid on.

2. Maidstone Road.—Deep well water found on analysis to be not of a first-class character, though not deemed condemnable.
3. Cazenove Street.—Well in basement supplying two houses. Water, on analysis, found unfit for drinking, inasmuch as some of its constituents suggested that some of the liquid contents of a cesspool were probably filtering into the well. Company's Water since laid on to both houses. (Pump now removed. —W.W.)

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1898.

The following is an extract from the published report of Mr. W. C. Finch, Luton Water Works :—

Month.	Total Depth in inches.	Days in which ·01 or more fell.	Average 1893-7.
Jan.	·32	6	1·79
Feb.	·91	9	1·52
March	1·71	10	1·79
April	1·47	9	1·20
May	3·04	18	·82
June	1·85	11	1·87
July	·58	5	2·55
Aug.	1·42	10	2·11
Sept.	·32	4	2·30
Oct.	2·08	14	2·68
Nov.	2·44	12	2·30
Dec.	1·72	10	2·37
Total	17·86	118	23·30

The greatest fall in 24 hours being ·97 inches on August 7th, and only on seven occasions has more than half-an-inch been recorded. The total rainfall for the year is 5·44 inches below the average of the five previous years. In 1894, 28·41 inches fell. Nearly half of the total rainfall (8·68 inches) occurred during the summer months, when practically the whole of the rain is lost by evaporation or by vegetation.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.

The marked and welcome diminution in the number of notifications of Infectious Diseases afforded more time to be devoted to house-to-house inspections, resulting in much good work being performed in the abatement of nuisances, closing of houses unfit for habitation, &c.

The whole of the Elementary Schools in the Urban District were

fumigated, not on account of any special prevalence of infectious diseases, but as a routine practice now annually observed.

The out-door offices of several schools were found to be sadly neglected as regards cleanliness. Year after year I have to report a similar condition of things.

The new Mortuary, on the Town Quay, is a marked improvement on the old one, both in construction and convenience.

Complaints as to the "black smoke" from certain chimneys have been made. That such nuisance does occasionally occur cannot be denied. Whether these chimneys are faultily constructed, and so do not consume their own smoke, I am unable to say, but such nuisance could be avoided by the use of Welsh coal.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have all received attention and need no special remarks thereon.

COW SHEDS.

An inspection of these has been carried out twice during the year. Eight notices to cleanse, &c., were served. Several complaints were received as to manure heaps. These were all dealt with without delay. Concerning one cowshed, a memorial was presented to your Committee, and is now under consideration.

BAKEHOUSES AND COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

These have all been inspected, and need no special remarks, save that, in many instances, the periodical whitewashing had not been carried out at the required time.

DRAINAGE.

I have little to add to former reports on this matter.

The contractor's tender for emptying cesspools to March 25th, 1898, was the incentive to the Council to carry out the work themselves. That such undertaking was an advantageous step is proved by the result that the total outlay, including £414 for new plant, only amounted to £1,466. The estimated cost for next year is £1,182, or a saving of £353 on the contractor's tender. That this method of emptying the fluid contents of cesspools is far preferable to the old, as regards expedition, cleanliness, and greater freedom from night work, cannot be denied.

The unavoidable disadvantages under this system are :—

1. That solid contents of cesspools, &c., have still to be removed in the old way.
2. That cesspools and privy pits remain close to dwellings.

During the twelve months ending Oct. 31st, 1898, the new cesspool plant removed 431,000 gallons or 862 tank-loads during the day-time, and 1,278 wagon loads of solids were removed at night.

As regards the defects connected with the house drains and non-flushing of closets at Borstal alluded to in previous reports the City Surveyor received instructions to make full enquiry into the matter and report thereon. Many drains and traps were found to be partially choked for want of flushing. Every house drain was accordingly flushed and disinfected. Written notices were next served, on offending owners, to provide a sufficient water closet to each house and to remedy any other sanitary defects mentioned in the said report. In nearly every instance these notices have been complied with.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1890.

No less than 53 houses have been certified as in unfit condition for habitation during the past year.

They were situated as follows:—

Garden Row, Eastgate	..	..	..	..	..	7
Richard Street, Delee	..	..	..	..	..	2
Taylor's Lane, Strood	..	..	..	..	..	4
Frindsbury Orchard ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Weleh's Court, Delee..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pelican Yard, Strood	..	..	..	..	..	2
Delee Road .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Willis' Row, Delee ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Furrell's Wharf ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
John Street, Troy Town	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sawyer's Court..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Strood Hill .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Frindsbury Road ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dunning's Lane ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	..	..	..	53

Of these, 22 have been pulled down, 10 have been made habitable, and the remaining 21 are closed. In one instance only was it necessary to have recourse to legal proceedings.

NUISANCES REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Privies, dangerous and defective structure	..	..	104
„ defective pits	..	..	9
„ „ coverings to, and to cesspools	..	..	26

Cesspools, insufficient accommodation	9
.. defective	10
.. unventilated	21
.. defective ventilators to	22
Earth Closets, defective	3
W.C. substituted for privies	38
.. defective structure of	30
.. .. soil pipe to	4
.. .. water fittings to	29
.. cisterns for flushing	46
Drains, defective and untrapped	25
.. stoppage in	143
.. defective traps and gullies to	94
.. house sinks disconnected with	33
Houses cleansed	13
.. defective paving round gullies, &c.	121
.. overcrowded	6
.. defective rain water shoots and gutters	9
.. ashpits and sanitary bins	298
.. .. rebuilt or repaired	39
.. filthy premises	4
.. unfit for habitation	53
Bakehouses, defective and dirty	14
Cowsheds,	8
Slaughterhouse,	1
Stables, undrained and unpaved	4
Urinals required	2
.. defective	7
School latrines	3
Animals causing nuisances, notices served—Rabbits 20, goat 1, pigeons 5, ducks 3, fowls 11, dog 1, pigs 3, cat 1	45
Manure and filth accumulations	36
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Total number	1309

The number of nuisances found and remedied bears testimony to the fact that the sanitary work of the city is receiving due attention.

In conclusion, I hand to your Committee my seventh Annual Report. Like previous ones, it naturally includes much matter which has been previously reported to and considered by your Committee. Nevertheless, I am led to hope that it may be found worthy of perusal.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That all newly-laid drains be subjected to a water-test before being covered.

2. That the Veterinary Inspector be requested to visit all the dairy farms in the Urban District, and report to your Committee as to the affection or otherwise of the cows by Tuberculosis.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WATSON.

A. Table of Deaths during the year 1898, in the Rochester Urban District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all Causes, at subjoined ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.												Total.	
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Pneumonia Fever.	Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.		All Other Diseases.
STROOD & FRINDSBURY	206	78	20	6	5	60	37	Under 5	1	1	2	...	2	2	...	2	16	1	1	51	97
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	17	12	3	7	46
STROOD INFIRMARY...	45	3	3			12	27	Under 5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	6
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	8	...	24	39
OTHER PARISHES THAN STROOD	241	66	26	14	11	62	62	Under 5	2	1	3	4	15	...	3	17	4	2	41	93	
								5 upwards	1	...	1	...	...	2	25	16	23	5	6	69	148
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL	94	2	9	11	16	51	5	Under 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	2	5	12
								5 upwards	...	...	1	...	...	...	8	5	7	1	14	45	82
ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL	32		13	12	4	3		Under 5	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
								5 upwards	2	9	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	20
FORT PITT HOSPITAL	20			3	9	8		Under 5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	1	9	17
TOTALS	638	149	71	46	45	196	131	Under 5	4	16	2	1	4	6	35	9	36	5	3	2	99
								5 upwards	2	11	11	2	1	1	2	2	54	48	50	9	28
THE SUBJOINED NUMBERS HAVE ALSO TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN JUDGING OF THE ABOVE RECORDS OF MORTALITY.																					
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons be- longing thereto.	22				9	13		Under 5	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	4	...	14
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	151	4	16	20	25	61	25	Under 5	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	5	20
								5 upwards	2	6	7	1	...	...	...	9	15	13	...	16	62

B. Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Rochester Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.					Cases removed from homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.			
	Last Census.	Estimated to Middle of 1898.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Krysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.
URBAN DISTRICT, II	26309	30533	800	Under 5 5 upwds.	37 62	18 68	1 1	1 10	1 4	2 36	27 50	10 48	7
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL.....				Under 5 5 upwds.	1	1		5		2	1	1	
STROOD UNION INFIRMARY.....				Under 5 5 upwds.	1					1	1		
FORT PITT HOSPITAL				Under 5 5 upwds.									
TOTALS.....	26309	30533	800	Under 5 5 upwds.	37 64	19 68	1 1	1 15	4 4	2 39	27 52	11 48	7



REPORT AS TO PORT SANITARY DISTRICT.

OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER.

February 21st, 1899.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Seventh Annual Report on the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1898.

The Vessels entering the Port were as follows:—

FOREIGN TRADE:—

British Steam	39	Sailing	99
Foreign Steam	30	Sailing	100
	69		199

COASTING TRADE:—

British Steam	501	Sailing	312
Foreign Steam	1	Sailing	1
	502		313

Total Steam.. 571.

Total Sailing.. 512

Total number of Vessels entered inwards, 1,083.

Your Port Sanitary Inspector boarded the following Vessels in addition to the above:—

RIVER TRADERS:—

Barges	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1182
Canal Boats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234
Lighters	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Fishing Boats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Steam Barges and Tugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Yachts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Total.. 1,467

Total number inspected.. 2,550.

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS:—

British, 2,418; Norwegian, 44; Danish, 43; German, 17; Russian, 15 Swedish, 11; French, 2. Total 2,550.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AT SHEERNESS.

This matter was fully dealt with in my last Annual Report. There is little to remark save that the death of Dr. Rogers offered a favourable opportunity for again considering this question, and with this view a deputation from the Port Sanitary Committee of London was appointed to meet a deputation consisting of the Mayor, the Chairman of your Committee, and the Chairman of the Health Committee. The result of this conference was that the matter was left in the hands of the Port Sanitary Committee of London to suggest a successor to Dr. Rogers. Mr. Fox, in general practice at Sheerness, was selected, and his appointment was agreed to by your Committee. The work has not been so satisfactorily carried out as could be desired, as 79 vessels from Foreign passed through without medical inspection due to the many adverse conditions which the Medical Officer has to contend with, and to which I alluded in the Annual Report for 1897.

RIVERS POLLUTION ACTS.

There is nothing of special interest to add to former reports, save to remind your Committee of the insanitary state of Janes' and Pelican Creeks.

HOSPITAL SHIP.

Up to the present time no sick patient has been received on board.

A thorough overhaul of the vessel has been made, and necessary repairs satisfactorily carried out, and the ambulance has been painted and tarred, both under the supervision of your Port Sanitary Inspector.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877-1884.

The Port Sanitary Inspector, acting under my direction, has carried out the duties of Inspector of Canal Boats. The number of infringements of the Acts was less than last year. The three stated as not remedied are now being complied with.

No case of infectious disease occurred. In one instance legal proceedings were threatened, but quick compliance with the requirements rendered further steps unnecessary.

TABLE PREPARED FROM INSPECTOR'S BOOKS.

Number of new boats registered	14
„ Re-registered owing to structural alterations	3
„ Re-registered for other reasons.. .. .	1
„ Boats registered at December 31	215
„ Registrations cancelled	94
<hr/>	
Number of Boats Inspected	234
„ Conforming to Acts and Regulations	201
„ Additional Visits to see whether notices were complied with	53
„ Of Boats with one or more infringements	33

INFRINGEMENTS OF REGULATIONS—

Notification of Change of Master, Reg. 4	1
Absence of Certificate, Act 77, Sec. 3	7
Certificate not identifying Owner with Boat	1
Marking, Act 77, Sec. 3, Act 84, Reg. 7	9
Cleanliness, Reg. 11	11
Painting, Reg. 9	9
Ventilation, Reg. 3	8
Dilapidated, Reg. 11	6
No Stove in Cabin, Reg. 11	1
<hr/>	
Total Number of Infringements	53
„ „ „ Remedied	50
„ „ „ not complied with	3

Number of Women in Boats inspected	15
„ Children between 5 and 12	3
„ „ 5 years and under	2

(Signed), E. L. FILLEY, Inspector of Canal Boats.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT.

In order to provide for any sudden emergency which might arise in the unavoidable absence of the Medical Officer, your Committee resolved that, "when the Medical Officer is obliged to temporarily absent himself from the City, he be authorized to appoint Mr. Pritchett as his deputy, and that in case of its being necessary for Mr. Pritchett to board any ship, the Corporation pay him a fee of 10/6 per case." His services were not, however, required.

The following cases of sickness were found and dealt with:—

- Feb. 10.—Barge "Charles Hutson"; mate suffering from erysipelas; removed home; barge and bilges disinfected.
- April 21.—S.S. "Ryhope"; seaman laid up—severe cold.
- April 28.—S.S. "Baltie"; ditto. (Passed Sheerness without inspection.)
- May 2.—Schooner "Rusko Castle"; seaman very bad with phthisis; removed to Greenwich Hospital.
- July 3.—Norwegian barque "Rufus"; seaman sick with pleurisy; removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.
- Sept. 6.—Swedish S.S. "Uno"; seaman laid up with gout.
- „ Russian barque "Orient"; mate sick with influenza.
- Oct. 16.—Russian barque "Süeo"; man removed at Sheerness suffering from typhoid fever. On arrival here, the water casks were emptied and cleansed. Ship visited daily. No other case arose.
- Oct. 24.—S.S. "Burham"; man found to be ill with influenza.
- Oct. 30.—H.M.S. "Challenger"; case of scarlatina removed to St. William's Hospital; cabin fumigated.
- Nov. 6.—Brigantine "Zenith"; man ill with diseased heart; removed to Greenwich Hospital.

The following table indicates the notices served during the year by your Port Sanitary Inspector, on ships other than canal boats:—

		CASES.	REMEDIED.
Dirty cabins and forecastles	..	65	64
Cabins to be painted	..	45	42
Insufficient lighting in cabins	..	49	46
Defective stoves in cabins	..	10	8
To provide ventilators for holds	..	7	7
Defective water storage	..	7	5

	CASES.	REMEDIED.
Brought forward	183	172
Dilapidated cabins	10	9
Leaky decks over seamen's berth ..	6	6
To provide ventilators for cabin ..	1	1
To cleanse bedding	3	3
Insufficient sleeping accommodation	2	2
Paints and oils exposed in forecastle	2	2
Insufficient food storage		1
Bunks filled with stores	1	1
To provide additional bulkheads ..	6	6
Insufficient water storage	2	1
To cleanse closets	3	3
To fumigate cabins	2	2
To disinfect bilges	1	1
Dirty water storage	5	5
Totals ..	228	215

One vessel was found to be in such a dilapidated condition that it was deemed advisable to call the Board of Trade's attention to her.

The Riverside Factories and Creeks have been duly visited each week in order to inspect the closets used by the men.

WATER SUPPLY TO SHIPS.

The following indicates the questions I have submitted to the Medical Officers of the Ports named, and their replies thereto:—

- A. Does your P.S.A. undertake to supply ships with Drinking Water, or is it left to private enterprise?
- B. What is the Charge made per 100 Gallons?

PORT.	ANSWER TO A.	ANSWER TO B.
Hull	Private enterprise	1/- per 100
Sunderland .. ..	.. ..	1/- per 100
Portsmouth .. ..	.. ..	1/6 per 1000
London .. ..	.. ..	2/- per ton (about 1/- per 100)
Plymouth .. ..	.. ..	9d. for 210 gals.
Dover .. ..	.. ..	Cannot say
Grimsby .. ..	.. ..	1/6 per 1000
Harwich .. ..	.. ..	1/- to 2/6 per 1000
Liverpool	Corporation W. W.	6d. per 100, 2/6 per 1000, with charge for turncock
Cardiff	Corporation to Bute Dock Co., and Dock Co. to ships	6d. per 1000
Southampton	Corporation, by meter to Dock Co. at 8d. 1000..	2/6 per ton, according to distance. Roughly 1d. per 100

So that in these Ports the charge varies from 1d. to 1/- per 100 gals., whereas, in the Port of Rochester, it is 2/6 per 100 gals.

Your Committee will doubtlessly agree that the charge made for water in this Port is not so reasonable as it should be.

The local Water Boat has been under constant observation and the tanks found to be in a satisfactory state.

Your Port Sanitary Inspector continues to shew marked attention to his duties, and studiously carries out all orders given to him by your Medical Officer.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WATSON.

